



# Summer 2017 Newsletter

Volume XXVII #2

## Inside this issue:

A Note From Our President	2
Battle and Brews is back!	3
Heritage Research Library News	6
Join us for our membership picnic—reservation form due by July 8	7
History Fair Information	8-9

Become a new member, or renew your membership with WCHS—see form on back page.

## Sons of the American Revolution Unveil New Historic Marker in Fort Ann

The Washington County Historical Society recently coordinated with the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) for the placement of the new Fort Ann Battle marker which commemorates the 240<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Burgoyne Campaign. The marker was one of two placed along Burgoyne's route from Canada to Saratoga NHP. The SAR dedicated two markers, one in Canada and the other in Fort Ann, while on a national tour commemorating the 1777 Saratoga Campaign route.



Pat Niles, WCHS President, assisted the Sons of the American Revolution in the design of the marker, completed state permits, helped order the marker, and arranged the placing of the marker on Route 4. The Society also coordinated with the Fort Ann Historical Society as well as the Fort Ann Highway Department in the placing of the marker. Dale Grinnell, WCHS board member and Fort Ann Historical Society Vice-President, helped coordinate the marker's terminology and position. The marker was placed in the park just north of the village of Fort Ann.



The Fort Ann Town Supervisor, Richard Moore gave opening remarks (photo left). An overview of the battle was provided by the Fort Ann American Legion Commander, Christine Milligan (photo right).



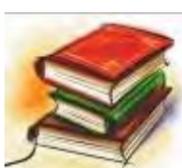
The event was well attended with local SAR members and guests including local community leaders and included a wreath laying ceremony. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Artillery Regiment led a color guard and cannon salute.



**Washington County  
Historical Society  
Mission Statement**

*The Washington County  
Historical Society is an  
educational organization  
dedicated to engaging diverse  
audiences in the study and  
application of the collective  
heritage of Washington County,  
New York, and its environs.*

- Rev. October 2005



**Heritage  
Research  
Library Hours:**

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Fridays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WCHS has a constantly growing collection of information, original documents, and other items of interest about Washington County and its inhabitants, past and present. We encourage you to stop by and take a look!

If you would like to find out more about volunteering to help with the Heritage Research Library, please contact the Historical Society and let us know.

Newsletter Editor:  
Kelly Mead

**How To Contact Us:**

Phone: (518) 747-9108  
Fax: (518) 746-1655

Address: 167 Broadway,  
Fort Edward, NY 12828

Web: [www.wchs-ny.org](http://www.wchs-ny.org)  
Email: [wchs@wchs-ny.org](mailto:wchs@wchs-ny.org)

**Greetings From WCHS President**

Dear Membership,

The Washington County Historical Society would like to thank you for your continued support through your membership and your support through volunteerism, membership fees, sponsorships, and donations. All contributions allow us to maintain our active role in the community.

The Society will be holding a membership picnic July 13, 2017, at the Old Fort House in Fort Edward. The membership is encouraged to come to the picnic and dine on hot dogs, various salads, and strawberry shortcake. Deborah Bailey's evening program will provide a first person portrayal of the Baroness Riedesel at the Old Fort House. The Baroness actually stayed at the Old Fort House for a time during Burgoyne's 1777 campaign. To attend, complete and return the form on page 7 of this *Newsletter*.

The Cronkite Lecture Series historically offers three programs annually on a specific topic. This year's series was held on the topic of Women's Suffrage. The Society will be turning the Cronkite Series back to the Preservation Committee next year to focus upon preservation topics.

The Society encourages you to volunteer for one of the many slots at the Washington County Fair in August 2017 to man the Society's booth in the County Bounty Building and the Caboose.

This year we will also be conducting our bi-annual history fair in Hartford, New York on September 30, 2017. This year's theme of the fair will be war and struggle in Washington County and will be held at the Hartford Central School.

The Society will again be conducting a Battles and Brews Tour, exploring French and Indian War sites in Washington and Warren counties on Saturday, October 14, 2017. The tour will visit Roger's Island, Roger's Ranger's site in Fort Ann, Military Road, and the Lake George Battlefield Park. The tour will also include stops at several micro-breweries in the area. Return the form on page 3 to attend.

The final program of the year will be a lecture/demonstration on the care of antique furniture. It will be held at the Slate Valley Museum in November 2017.

Membership letters were sent out in May, please consider rejoining, encourage other history minded people to join, and continue the work of the Society. Our most important responsibility is the research from the Heritage Library. The Library is free and open to the public.

Respectfully,

*Pat Niles*  
*Washington County Historical Society President*

# 2017 Battles and Brews Tour



Presented by the Washington County Historical Society

**When:** Saturday, October 14 9:00 - 4:00 pm

**Where:** Bus Departs from the Fort Miller Rest Area on Route 4

**What:** A day long historic bus tour stopping at French and Indian War sites in Washington and Warren Counties. Members of the Washington County Historical Society act as step on guides and take you back in time - and to breweries!

Sites to be visited include Rogers Island, The Old Military Road, Lake George Battlefield Park, Fort Ann and Coopers Cave. We will step off the bus at some sites.

The tour will stop to visit several farm and micro breweries giving you the time to relax and enjoy a pint of locally made brew!

**Cost:** The cost of \$60 per person (\$50 for WCHS members) and includes the bus, interpretation and two drink tickets. *Lunch is on your own*, with a scheduled stop at a local brewery.

Sign up with the form below, or visit our website: [www.wchs-ny.org](http://www.wchs-ny.org)

---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ number attending: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone where you can be reached: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of check enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_  
If you have any questions feel free to call 747-9108.  
Send your complete form and check to:

Washington County Historical Society  
167 Broadway  
Fort Edward NY 12828-1709



**SPACE IS LIMITED! DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE!**

### **Successful Cronkhite Lecture Series for WCHS**

This year in celebration of the hundredth anniversary of women's right to vote in New York State the Cronkhite lecture series has been focusing on different aspects of Women's Suffrage.



On Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, the Hedbring Community Room at the Greenwich Free Library was packed with an attentive audience listening to Susan B. Anthony (portrayed by Phyllis Chapman of Eagle Bridge, pictured left) tell of her life as a suffragist. Many people do not know that during Susan's formative years her family lived in several locations in the Town of Greenwich. During the time Susan's father managed the mills in Battenville and Center Falls, they lived in four different homes. The first three were in Battenville. They lived with Judge McLean for a time after they first moved to New York State from Adams, MA. They then lived in one of the

mill houses and finally in a brick house that Daniel Anthony built in the settlement of Battenville for his family. After the Panic of 1837, when the Anthony's had to auction off their belongings, they resided in an old boarding house next to the current Hollingsworth and Vose plant on State Rte. 29 between Battenville and Greenwich in the hamlet of Center Falls (formerly known as Hardscrabble—Susan's father actually changed the name). The Center Falls house was torn down in the 1960s. It sat approximately on the site of the current water treatment plant for the mill.

In addition to talking about her life in Battenville, "Susan" mentioned what a pleasure it was to be speaking to an audience in her former home town where she had lived for almost nineteen years from 1826-1845. She solicited a group of audience participants to re-enact a portion of that famous trial when Susan registered to vote in Rochester, NY. "Susan" entertained the large group for more than an hour (Phyllis' husband Mike Chapman ran an interesting power point presentation on Susan's life while his wife spoke). She received a standing ovation for her outstanding performance.



The evening ended with refreshments. Everyone left with a better understanding of how difficult it was for women to achieve the right to vote. Sadly, Susan B. Anthony passed away twelve years before women were able to vote in New York State and fourteen years before women could vote in the national election. She and her contemporaries laid the groundwork for the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment. It was an interesting and informative evening. The event was sponsored by the Washington County Historical Society as the first in this year's Cronkhite Series.

The second program in the Cronkhite series featured Kyra Gee and Tisha Dolton and was held on Monday, May 8 at 7 p.m. in the Greenwich Free Library. There were about 25 in attendance. The first portion of the program was a short talk on Women's Suffrage by Kyra Gee. Kyra is a junior at Granville Central School. She recently won second place at the national level in the American Legion Oratorical Contest. Kyra's talk was entitled: "The Seeds of Equality: Women's Rights and the U.S. Constitution".



Kyra described her talk as follows: “While the U.S. Constitution did not guarantee equal rights for women, the fact that it guaranteed equal rights for all men planted the seed that grew into the Women’s Suffrage Movement led by luminaries such as Susan B. Anthony and Alice Paul, the Suffragettes worked for over 80 years to win passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, securing for women the right to vote. However, the constitution still does not provide equal rights for all women. It is our responsibility to continue the work of the Suffrage movement by passing the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).”

Kyra is a member of the Varsity Soccer team and the Varsity Track and Field team. She is also the President of the Granville Drama Club, an officer in the Granville FFA, a member of the Quiz Bowl team, and a member of the National Honor Society. She lives with her four siblings and parents on a small farm in Hebron, where her favorite pastimes include horseback riding, singing, and playing soccer with her family.

The second half of the program consisted of a selection of Suffrage Songs performed by Greenwich Historian, Tisha Dolton. There are two main categories of suffrage music: rally songs and parlor music. Rally songs typically had women’s rights lyrics adapted to tunes of popular songs. This allowed audience members to sing along at rallies and events where people didn’t need to be able to read music. Parlor music consisted of original music and words usually printed as sheet music. Some suffrage songs appeared early in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but much of the music came into being after the Women’s Rights Convention in Seneca Falls in 1848. Tisha sang examples of both categories of songs.



Tisha has been researching and singing suffrage songs for thirteen years. She is currently the Outreach Librarian at Crandall Public Library in Glens Falls. She has been the appointed Town of Greenwich historian for the past fourteen years. She holds a BA in History from SUNY New Paltz and in Information Science from the State University of New York in Albany. Tisha studied voice at SUNY Adirondack. The audience enjoyed singing along and learning the history of music used during the Women’s Suffrage Movement.

The third segment of the Cronkhite series was a showing of the movie “Iron-Jawed Angels” at the Fort Edward Art Center. The Washington County Historical Society and the Fort Edward Historical Society co-hosted the movie. ***Iron-Jawed Angels*** tells the amazing a little-known story of a group of young women who came after Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. They were passionate about fighting for the right for women to vote. It is set in 1912 Philadelphia. The movie was attended by a small but attentive audience.

## **Heritage Research Library Notes**

On Tuesday, May 23, I attended a workshop, “Fundamentals of Caring for Paper Collections,” presented by the Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York, which is a program of the New York State Education Department, with services provided by the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts. There was nothing particularly new, except that the standard for item description DACS\*, which I do not use because it has flaws, is being reviewed because it has flaws.

*\*Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) is a set of rules for describing archives, personal papers, and manuscript collections. The descriptive standard can be utilized for all types of archival material. In 2004, DACS was adopted by the Society of American Archivists as an official standard. (Reference: Describing Archives: A Content Standard – Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Describing\\_Archives:\\_A\\_Content\\_Standard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Describing_Archives:_A_Content_Standard)*

At the Heritage Research Library, we use a program called *PastPerfect*, for cataloging, the process by which we enter information about every item in our collection. The exceptions to this are Vertical File items. *PastPerfect* the company also maintains the database as an online presence, an additional service for which we pay. So our catalog is online just as are most library catalogs. It is searchable without a password. Simply go to our site <http://www.wchs-ny.org/> , or if you are not good with web addresses, just enter Washington County Historical Society NY. Once you are on our homepage, click on Research. From the drop-down menu, click on Heritage Library. You will then be able to search the catalog. The benefit of cataloging with *PastPerfect* is that it allows for all kinds of notes and explanations. The cataloguer is not limited to just a few descriptors and limited notes.

Movie Review: On Thursday, May 25, I saw the movie *Iron Jawed Angels*. The film is about the Woman’s Suffrage Movement and how the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment\*\* was passed. The film was well done, with an amazing cast. I would recommend it to anyone with even a passing interest in women’s suffrage.

*\*\*Amendment XIX: The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.*

Research: Two weeks ago a researcher came in searching for information on and ancestor. When we looked him up in *New York in the Revolution*, there he was serving under Colonel Ethan Allen, Colonel Seth Warner, Major John Brown, and Adjutant William Satterlee. It is quite rewarding to see history make that great leap into our conscious minds, particularly in this instance, because the researcher had no idea of the connection.

I would like to thank everyone who supports the Washington County Historical Society in any way.

On May 10, 2017, Agnes Barber Peterson, from whom this Library benefits on a daily basis, passed away. I did not know until I read her obituary that she shared my birthday. In the next issue of the *Newsletter*, there will be a more complete dedication to Agnes.

- Submitted by Barbara D. Anderson, BA, MA, MLS, Librarian, Heritage Research Library

### **Membership Picnic Announced**

The Washington County Historical Society will be holding a membership picnic on July 13, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Old Fort House Museum in Fort Edward. The evening will begin at 5 p.m. with a tour of the Women's Suffrage exhibit at the museum. At 5:30 p.m., the picnic will serve hot dogs, various salads and dessert of strawberry shortcake and home-made whipped cream.

The evening's program is Debra Bailey who portrays the Baroness von Riedesel. The Baroness actually stayed at the Old Fort House during the Burgoyne Campaign in 1777. The Society would love to have you come meet other WCHS members and board members. It should be a great evening rain or shine.

Make a reservation by mailing the completed following form, include a check made out to Washington County Historical Society for \$15. Please feel free to bring anyone who might be interested in preserving Washington County History.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone where you can be reached: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of check enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions feel free to call 747-9108.

Send your complete form and check to:

Washington County Historical Society  
167 Broadway  
Fort Edward NY 12828-1709

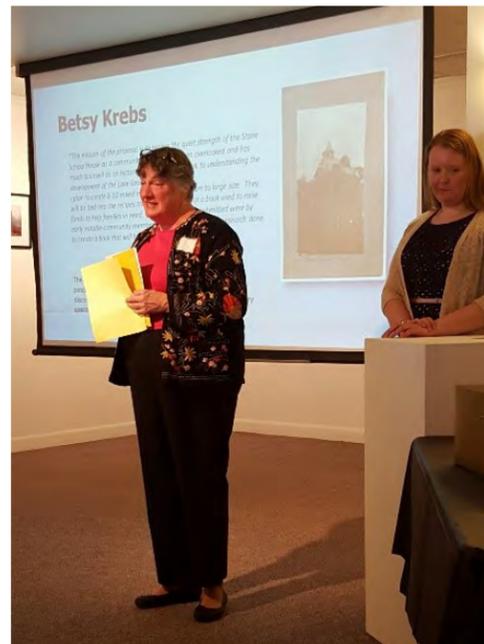
Deadline for reservations is July 10.

### **WCHS Receives LARAC Grant**

On Saturday, April 8 Debi Craig, WCHS Vice-President and Event Coordinator for the History Fair, attended and spoke during the grant ceremony at the Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council in Glens Falls. She presented an overview of the upcoming History Fair.

WCHS was recently notified a grant proposal submitted by Debi and Claudia Blackler was accepted. This grant was to provide funds to have “The Hudson River Ramblers” perform at the 2017 History Fair at Hartford Central School. With the grant approval, we will welcome the duo of Rich Bala and Jonathan Kruk who will perform songs of the Revolutionary War at this year’s event! The concert will be the culminating event at the end of the day on Saturday, September 30 at 3:00 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

The History Fair will provide activities all day for adults and children at Hartford Central in addition to the musical performance. Please watch our website and Facebook page for updates! It should be a fun and informative day for all ages. Come join us and learn about history in your own backyard!



*(Photo left): Vice-president Debi Craig talks to the audience at the Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council at the April 8th Grant Awards Ceremony in Glens Falls.*



All programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.



### **WCHS Announces New Preservation Committee Established**

The Washington County Historical Society is pleased with the progress of the Historic Preservation Committee. The committee has met monthly since January and made great strides in getting a comprehensive awards program together.

The committee initiated the program in February with a draft of an awards program and the committee has been working to revise it since February. In July, the committee will present the program to the WCHS board of trustees. If the board of trustees approves the awards program, it will be upload to the Society’s website in August or September of this year. Applications for awards will be taken as soon as the award application are completed and mail back to the society. The awards will be presented in May 2018.

The Society looks forward to your comments on the program and applications which will be reviewed and judged against other entries. WCHS would like to thank the members of the preservation committee for their efforts in putting together a comprehensive awards program for Washington County. The preservation program will be reinstated after a ten year absence.

### **History Fair Update**

The 2017 History Fair is fast approaching. This year's event will be on Saturday, September 30 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Hartford Central School.

Our speakers to date will include: Lynn Hohmann: Battle of Lake George (French and Indian and Revolutionary Wars); David Bullard: Marshall House and the Baroness von Riedesel; Steve Butz: Daniel Shay's settlement on Egg Mountain; Pat Niles: Revolutionary War in Washington County; Mike Russert: a new talk on the NY 123<sup>rd</sup> Civil War Regiment; Bob Mulligan and Al Cormier: WW I Doughboys; Tisha Dolton: Music of the Women's Suffrage movement, and Debi Craig: Susan B. Anthony's life in Washington County.

The following towns and villages will have exhibits: Putnam, Greenwich, Easton, Whitehall, Fort Ann, Kingsbury, Hudson Falls, Hampton, Hebron, Jackson, and Hartford. There will also be exhibits by the Walloomsac Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, Willard's Mountain Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, the Gill Room of the Greenwich Free Library, Deputy Washington County Historian with Mike Russert: NY 123<sup>rd</sup> Regiment.

There will be more activities added as the event gets closer. Please check our website to find out what has been added!

Please mark your calendars now. This promises to be an interesting and informative day for all ages! The event is free and open to the public. Donations will be accepted to help defray expenses.

See you in September!!

### **Save the Date**

July 8, 2017

240th Anniversary of the Battle of Fort Anne!

10:00 a.m. Parade (Fort Ann Central School)

11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. Crafts, Demonstrations & Food  
(Village Park)

Bring a chair and enjoy the music!

## Norman Rockwell

When I was a young child growing up in the late 1950s, nothing was more dreaded than a trip to Dr. Ring (really a very nice small town doctor who had an office in his home on Quaker Street in Granville). Dr. Ring had a large assortment of "The Saturday Evening Post" magazines in his waiting room. I would study those covers on every visit always looking for a new cover I hadn't seen before. As a young child, I had no idea who the artist was, but I knew his paintings made me smile even when I knew I might have to get a shot or have my throat painted.



Many years later when I visited the Rockwell shop in Arlington, VT and the Rockwell Museum in Lenox, MA, I realized I remembered many of those iconic paintings from my childhood. I discovered that my Mom had gone to high school with Bob Buck, the young man who portrayed Willie Gillis. My friend Pauline Grimes and her brother Paul had been models for the "Golden Rule". While she and her brother are proud to have been Rockwell models, at the time they were excited to be paid \$5.00 and if they could sit still, they could take a cold bottle of Coca-Cola out of the snowbank outside the Rockwell's Arlington home. They met Rockwell through another well-known area painter, Grandma Moses.

Last summer, I saw a small article in the VERMONT GUIDE about a reunion of Rockwell models at the former home of the Rockwell's in Arlington. I thought, "What fun to go and see how many of those models come!" I went all by myself and discovered that indeed MANY of those models still come to reminisce. There was a special table just for them. Each received a name tag with their painting underneath their name. It was interesting to see whether they still resembled the child in their painting. One model, Ruth Skellie carried a copy of the "Saturday Evening Post" with her painting "The Shooter" from 1939 on the cover when she was only 11 years old. An amazingly agile woman for her age, I watched Ruth sit right down on the ground to listen to the program. It was a delightful afternoon. There were many who like me had not been Rockwell models but who simply enjoyed Norman Rockwell's paintings and wanted to learn more about the people who as children sat for hours because Rockwell was a perfectionist!

Recently, I was in Cambridge Central School where I noticed an interesting display in the showcase at the elementary entrance to the building. Cambridge Central had provided the backdrop for one of the Rockwell paintings which I immediately recognized as "The Shiner". (for any readers not familiar



with the painting, it depicts a young girl sitting on a bench outside the principal's office proudly sporting a black eye). The model was a young girl from Vermont named Mary Whalen Leonard who also posed for two other Rockwell paintings "The Girl in the Mirror" and "A Day in the Life of a Girl". In the display at the school were preliminary photos of the principal's office and the models used in the painting. The same principal's office door shown in the painting is still in place today. I taught in Cambridge from 1982-1989 and passed through that doorway numerous times without ever knowing it was featured in the painting. "The Shiner" was featured on the cover of "The Saturday Evening Post" on May 23, 1953.



If you ever have the opportunity to attend one of these reunions, I highly recommend it. The models are all getting older, a few (including Bob Buck of Willie Gillis fame) have already passed on. It was a fun way to spend an afternoon and to take a walk down memory lane into my own childhood.

Article and photos submitted by Debi Craig

## **WCHS Board of Directors Meeting News**

The Board of Directors, representing the Washington County Historical Society, want to keep our members fully informed. To that end, we will include highlights and summaries from recent meetings in each newsletter.

### **Highlights from Monday, February 27, 2017 Meeting:**

- A group of volunteers working on the Preservation Committee met prior to the board meeting to review suggested guidelines, goals and planning documents were reviewed. At the board meeting, a motion was made to establish the Historic Preservation Committee as a subject committee for WCHS by Vance Bateman, 2nd by Sally Brillon, all in favor. Vance Bateman will serve as the committee chair. Once planning is finalized for the committee, the group will present to the board of trustees for final approval.
- Steve Lapham noted our web pages are under construction and will be reviewed and updated.

### **Highlights from Monday, March 20, 2017 Meeting:**

- Pat Niles reported he recently participated in the regional NYS History Day as a judge.
- Steve Lapham reported he now has additional reprinted book copies of Historic Washington County done – each book is about a town.

## **2017 Board of Directors**

### **OFFICERS**

President	Patrick Niles
Vice President	Debi Craig
Treasurer	Dale Grinnell
Secretary	Kelly Mead

### **TRUSTEES — 2017**

Justin Culligan  
Eileen Greeley  
Mary Skelly

### **TRUSTEES—2018**

D. Keith Truesdale  
Kathy Huntington

### **TRUSTEES—2019**

Vance Bateman  
Nancy Jo Davidsen  
James Parillo  
Krista Rupe

### **STANDING COMMITTEES:**

Building—Sally Brillon  
Finance—Kay Tomasi  
Nominations—John Mead

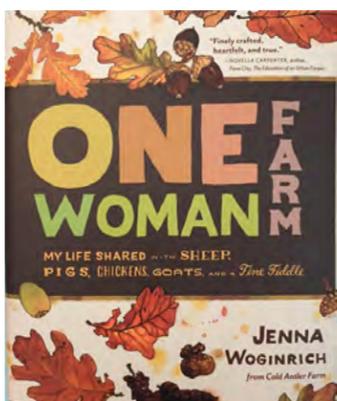
### **TRUSTEES EMERITI**

Joan Handy  
Agnes Peterson

### **WCHS HISTORIAN**

John A. Mead

## **Available from the WCHS Bookstore**



Jenna Woginrich is a homesteader and homestead farmer who lives and writes on a small farm in the Cambridge area of Washington County.

"Jenna's lovingly written, candidly poignant memoir of a year in the life of her farm is full of honesty, triumphs, travails, and seasoned advice. I didn't want to put it down."

Ashley English. 2013, hardcover, photos, 208 pgs. \$16.95

Visit [www.wchs-ny.org](http://www.wchs-ny.org) for our complete booklist and to order this or other interesting titles.



167 Broadway Fort Edward NY 12828-1709  
Telephone (518) 747-9108

**WCHS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

New  Renewal

Summer 2017 Newsletter

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have an off-season address? (e.g. start: January; end: March)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Away Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Return Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category	Price
Senior Couple/Senior Individual/Student	\$25
Family/Individual	\$35
Patron	\$50
Contributing	\$75
Sustaining	\$150
Benefactor	\$500

- I would like to include an additional gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for: \_\_\_\_\_ Library Operations \_\_\_\_\_ General Fund  
 Please contact me about becoming a WCHS volunteer.  Please send me a list of WCHS Publications.

*Please note that the WCHS membership year is January 1 thru December 31. New memberships received after November 1 will be honored for the following year. Annual memberships and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*